

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : At the outset I had stated that price fixation was done in 1992 and since then the same is going on. In between the Government had constituted Shankar Committee. The report of that Committee has also been submitted with our office some 15-20 days back and now it has to be sent before the Cabinet. If we discuss this issue before that, then a signal will go that either the prices will come down or increase or will remain stable. Therefore, our officers have given in writing that this report was submitted in the month of December, 1996. Since then it has been under consideration. It is being considered as to what should be done. This is not such kind of matter to be taken up in a rash way. If prices go up, there is effect of it on the common masses. Let it be studied in a careful way. Such rashness is not good.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Let me know the reply of the question which I want to put up as to what is the cost of production as on date ? At present, you might have calculated something. Report has been pending for consideration since December, 1996 and seven months have elapsed. Let me know about it. Prices have been hiked or not but information to this effect should be given so that it could be conveyed to the people.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this point is still being looked into as to what is the cost of production of natural gas in the country as on date. I shall intimate the hon'ble Member in this regard.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Civil Aviation Policy

*266. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI SURESH PRABHU :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new comprehensive Civil Aviation Policy including laying of guidelines for all future Private Sector investments in airport projects is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the reasons for making the changes in the existing Civil Aviation Policy;

(d) the time by which the new policy is likely to be

announced;

(e) whether experts from various organisations have also been consulted in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether many opposition parties have opposed the proposed changes in the Civil Aviation Policy;

(h) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(i) the extent to which the new policy is likely to be beneficial to the country;

(j) whether it is also proposed to allow 100 percent private participation in some airport projects; and

(k) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) to (k) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to frame a comprehensive National Policy on Civil Aviation, encompassing all aspects. The Policy is being formulated in consultation with the representatives of airlines – both Public and Private, Airports Authority of India, Confederation of Indian Industry and experts in the field of Aviation. It will protect the national interest in all respects. There is no proposal to change foreign equity participation in the domestic air transport policy already approved by the Government. The policy is likely to be finalised within 3 months. Details of the policy can only be given at that stage.

[Translation]

Expansion of Major Ports

*267. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any schemes for expansion of Tuticorin, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai port trusts;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the total expenditure likely to be incurred on these schemes; and

(c) the likely increase in the Government's revenue after expansion of these port trusts ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of expenditure likely to be incurred during 1997-98 on the schemes for expansion of these Major Ports are as under:-

(Rs. in Crores)	
Name of the Port	Approved Outlay (1997-98)
Calcutta/Haldia	45.22
Mumbai	156.24
Chennai	228.38
Tuticorin	34.18
Total :	464.02

(c) The additional revenue can be estimated only after all the schemes aimed at expansion of these ports have been sanctioned and taken up for implementation.

LPG Botting Plants

[English]

*268. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fifty one additional LPG Bottling Plants were proposed to be set up during the Eighth Five Year Plan in order to meet the increasing demand of LPG;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their locations, names of the oil company with their bottling capacity of each plant;

(c) whether there is any restrictions on entry of private LPG botting plant in the country;

(d) if so, the reaosns therefor;

(e) the details regarding the number of new LPG bottling plants required in the country to meet the demand for LPG;

(f) whether Indian Oil Corporation has plans to commission twenty five new LPG bottling plants in the next two years; and

(g) if so, the proposed schedule of commissioning of these plants alongwith their locations, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) During the VIII Five Year Plan, additional bottling capacity of 1126 TMTA was proposed to be set up by the Public Sector Oil Companies. The location and capacity are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) To meet the future demand of LPG in the country the public sector oil companies have planned to set up an additional bottling capacity of 3093 TMTA during the IX Plan Period.

(f) and (g) The details of new bottling plants to be comissioned by Indian Oil Corporation during the VIII Plan, which have been spilled over to the IX Plan period are given in the enclosed Statement-III. In addition to these, the existing bottling capacity of 44 TMTA each at Karnal, Jamshedpur and Bhopal will be augmented by 44 TMTA each to reach 88 TMTA during 1997-98 under VIII Plan.

Statement-I

Locations Planned for Setting up New LPG Bottling Plants as per the 8th Plan proposals

Location	State	Oil Co.	Capacity (TMTA)	Latest Status/ Anticipated
1	2	3	4	5
Guwahati	Assam	IOC	22	Commissioned
Sikkim	Sikkim	IOC	5	Commissioned
Tripura	Tripura	IOC	5	Commissioned
Madras	Tamilnadu	BPC	22	Commissioned
Trichi	Tamilnadu	IOC	22	Commissioned
Ahmedabad	Gujarat	BPC	34	Commissioned
Ahmedabad*	Gujarat	IOC	32	Commissioned
Delhi	U.T. Delhi	IOC	88	Commissioned
Bikaner*	Rajasthan	IOC	22	Commissioned
Farrukabad	U.P.	IOC	22	Commissioned